

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and overhype.

Sinclair is using the public airwaves free of charge, and is required by law to serve the public interest. In the case of this conglomerate, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for the common good of the nation. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. The FCC should take a good look at these actions and conclude that the license renewal process for Sinclair should not be automatic. Unless Sinclair can raise its community standards to the FCC's level of accountability, its license renewal should be rejected. Thanks for what you do to ensure the civility and appropriateness of public discourse.